of invitation to the Chairman of a NGO - "Friends of Tribal Society" - to address the gathering. The recommendations of the Group of experts were withdrawn from the agenda items for discussion. The invitation to the Chairman of the NGO was also withdrawn.

Strike by College and University Teachers

718. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the recent country-wide ceasework by college and university teachers;

(b) the assurances given on behalf of Government on the basis of which the strike has been called off; and

(c) whether any progress has been made subsequent to resumption of work by the teachers, towards resolving the outstanding issues agitating them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The major reasons were that the teachers we demanding higher pay scales and better service conditions than those recommended by the Pay Review Committee appointed by the UGC.

(b) and (c) Based on the discussion and consultation with teachers' representatives, the Government have already notified the pay scales and service conditions; and the teachers have resumed work. The notified pay-scales includes upgradation in some scales and improvement in the service conditions as recommended by the Pay Review Committee.

New schemes to spread education among women

719. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for spread of education amongst girls has been launched for providing books for education of girls;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, indicating the targeted strata of the girls under the scheme, and allocation thereunder for Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and other States and Union Territories for the current year; and

(c) the steps taken so far to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) No such scheme has, so far, been launched.

Tercentenary of the Creation of Khalsa

720. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outlay earmarked for participation in the tercentenary of the creation of Khalsa;

(b) the concrete programmes visualised for suitable celebrations; and

(c) whether the repertory contain any programmes of permanent nature and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Committee for celebrations of the Tercentenary of the founding of Khalsa met under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister on November 5, 1998. After the deliberations it was decided to set up an Implementation Committee under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development to finalise the specific programmes and activities. In that meeting the Prime Minister announced that the Govt. of India would contribute Rs. 100 crores for the celebrations all over the country.

Objectives of National Book Trust

721. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by National Book Trust during 1997-98 to foster book-mindedness, in view of the reading habits being dismal in the country;

(b) whether fostering book-mindedness is an important objective for which National

Book Trust was created; if so, what is the ratio of its resources directed towards it vis-a-vis publishing activity; and

(c) what are the countries National Book Trust visited for organising or participating in book exhibitions during 1997-98 and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A statement is annexed.

(b) Yes, Sir. The ratio of resources utilised for fostering book-mindedness is at par with that utilised for publishing activity. During the year 1997-98, out of Rs. 319.57 lacs, the Trust has spent an amount of Rs. 153.49 lacs towards its publishing programme and an amount of Rs. 166.08 lacs on promotional activities.

(c) (i) During the year 1997-98, the National Book Trust, India organised the 13th World Book Fair at New Delhi and one National Book Fair at Ahmedabad.

(ii) National Book Week was observed from 14 to 20 November, 1997; and two workshops, one International and the other National, were held during the year.

(iii) Besides the many literary functions organised to promote book culture, the NBT also organised several book releases, to publicize its new and exciting books.

(iv) During the year 1997-98, 2226 new members were enrolled in the NBT Book Club.

(v) The NBT participated in 21 book fairs and exhibitions in various parts of the country.

(vi) Besides, the NBT also organised many Pustak Parikarmas at various places all over the country through mobile exhibition vans.

(vii) The NBT Newsletter in English and in Hindi were brought out every month to disseminate information about new events in the book industry.

(viii) 2832 new Readers' Clubs were established through the National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) of the NBT through mail as well as direct efforts throughout the country.

(ix) 12 issues of the bilingual Readers' Club Bulletin containing interesting reading material, activities, book information and contributions by children were published during this period.

(x) In order to focus attention on children's literature, 8 meetings were held during the year, covering various subjects.

(xi) On the occasion of National Book Week, a children's book and activity fair was organised from 14 to 20 November, 1997 in New Delhi.

Setting up of Science City in Punjab

722. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal to set up a Science City in Punjab; and

(b) the funds released by Government of India to Punjab in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Govt. of India, in collaboration with the Govt. of Punjab, has decided to set up a Science City at Jalandhar to be managed by a Society to be constituted by that Government.

The Government of India's financial commitment for this project will not exceed Rs. 70.00 crores which will be provided as an additionality to the Department of Culture over the remaining 4 years of the IX Five Year Plan. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores is proposed to be provided during this year.

The National Council of Science Museums, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Culture, will assist in setting up this Science City, on a turn key basis, for the Punjab Government.

The Punjab Government has set up a Society known as 'Council of Pushpa Gujaral Science City' under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of 1860 of amended by Punjab Amendment Act, 1951 for this purpose. Action has already been initiated for release of funds to this Society.